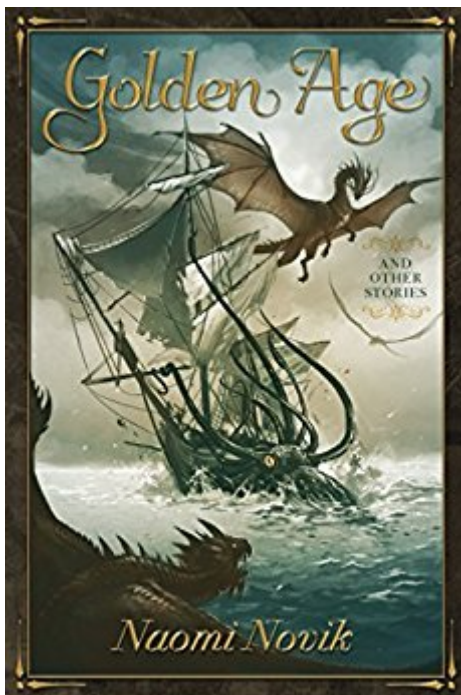


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# Golden Age And Other Stories



## Synopsis

Naomi Novik ended her acclaimed, beloved nine-volume Temeraire series last year with a stunning finale, *League of Dragons*. Fans missing their favorite series can now rejoice: Novik returns with an original Temeraire collection as unique as the world she has created, with each tale inspired by an accompanying piece of fan art. The Temeraire novels provide a window into an alternate nineteenth century populated with Novik's own richly human and unforgettably draconic characters as they adventure alongside well-known historical figures. That tradition continues here. Readers will delight at appearances by fan-favorite characters from the series and historical figures like the famed explorer Matteo Ricci. In "Planting Season," Novik shows us an early glimpse of American dragon John Wampanoag at Boston Harbor. "Golden Age" finds a dragon who believes he remembers being called Celeste hatch from a shipwreck-tossed crate onto an island where he meets others of his kind. But other famous fictional characters are to be discovered here as well. Readers will certainly recognize a certain Miss Bennet (here Captain Bennet) and her suitor, Mr. Darcy, in "Dragons and Decorum." Filled with the inventive world-building, rich detail, sparkling wit, and deep emotion that readers have come to expect from Novik's work, *Golden Age and Other Stories* is a treasure at home on any Temeraire-lover's bookshelf.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The short story PLANTING SEASON with the American dragon John Wampanoag and American history would be wonderful as a stand alone series. (hint, hint for Naomi). For lovers of Pride and Prejudice, the short story DRAGONS AND DECORUM is that in an alternate reality and a joy to read. I will say in front that you will not get most of the stories unless you have read at least the first book or first 3 or 4 (but preferably all) of the Temeraire series and for good measure, reread them a second or third time. They combine a rich historical background, politics and world culture of the era AND a set of natural laws on how things work in this fantasy world..

The stories are all definitely geared towards fans of the Temeraire series; there's very little in the way of explanation of the world itself, and it is assumed that you have read the books already. ...Or, in the case of "Dragons and Decorum," that you're a Jane Austen fan. If you are both an Austen and a Novik fan, just go ahead and buy this book, because that one story will gladden your heart. It just works ridiculously well. Back to the point: if you haven't read the Temeraire series, do that first and get back to this one afterwards. If you have, this is a nice little dessert to the main courses.

I'm really sorry to say that this was a disappointment. I expected to love it, as I have all the Temeraire books, but it didn't do it for me. There were six short stories--good ones, but they fill only a part of what is already quite a short book. The rest are "drabbles;" 100-word stories that aren't "stories" in the sense of having plots--they are much more like vague ideas about stories that might get written later, if a reason for doing so arises. I wish Novik had held back the six stories until she had twelve (or fifteen) and then published that book.

Ahoy there me mateys! Ah the beautiful cover with both dragons and ships lured me in. Arrrr! The author, Naomi Novik, hooked me and had me super excited to read this collection of stories revisiting the dragon, Temeraire and his world. This collection did not disappoint. It contains 6 stories and 26 drabbles. What is a drabble? I'll get to that . . . Volly's Cow•This is a very short story about Temeraire trying to obtain the vote of Volly. I am not quite clear on the whole voting plotline as I have yet to finish the whole Temeraire series but of course I like silly Volly and the story did entertain. Planting Season•This story

showcases John Wampanoag, an enterprising dragon trader. Apparently he shows up later in the Temeraire books. All I know is that this story was one of the highlights for me. This is a colonial-era story with John's navigation of both Native American and European factions. Short yet sweet.

• Dawn of Battle • This story involves Jane Roland before the Battle of the Nile and the destruction of London. Jane is a young captain trying to exert her influence on her male crew. I adored her relationship with Excidium. It is amazing that this story took place before the action of the battle and yet was exciting in its own right.

• Golden Age • This fabulous story is a re-imaging of how Temeraire and Laurence meet. Temeraire, called Celeste in this incarnation, is washed up on the shore of a seemingly deserted island. The first part of the story is told from Celeste's point of view about how he develops and what occurs on this island. The second half is from Laurence's point of view. From battles at sea to fights with kraken to the burgeoning friendship of man and dragon, this one was a pure delight.

• Succession • A lovely story that takes place in China and tells the story of Temeraire's inception and the start to how his egg ends up meeting Laurence. I loved the viewpoint of Qian and her viewpoint of the Chinese politics. It shows such a different dragon culture from the European fighting forces centered one.

• Dragons and Decorum • A Pride and Prejudice retelling with Elizabeth Bennett as a Captain with her own dragon. Amazing.

• Nuff said.

• Drabbles • Apparently a drabble according to the author is "a story of 100 words" and while there are many debates on how strictly this limit should be observed, for purposes of this collection I have kept to the exact number.

• The collection contains 26 of them. These snippets were very interesting and well written but overall just left me wanting them to be longer. Perhaps these will be turned into longer stories in the future. Mulan with dragons anyone? Yes please.

While I enjoyed this collection immensely, there was one flaw of the kindle edition "the artwork. It was black and white which I did not mind for the historical feel of it. But each image was so small and several were missing altogether. I read an eArc so I assume that has been fixed. I wish the art could have been enlarged when clicking on it so I could have seen the full details. I am assuming that the hardback will have no such problems of course. So if ye like dragons in general and Temeraire specifically, then pick this collection up!

Side note: the author's website has larger versions of the artwork on it! Hooray! Reading by Amy Thompson is my favorite with Dragons in a Winter Clearing by Stephanie Mendoza being a close second. Okay but the cover art by Sandara Tang is awesome. That much wonderful dragon art . . . can't complain.

Arrrrr! So lastly . . . I received a copy of this novel from Subterranean Press in exchange for my honest musings. Arrrrrr!

Thank you to NetGalley and Subterranean Press for the opportunity to read this digital galley. I have been a fan of the Naomi Novik stories featuring Temeraire since I read the first sentence of the first book. When I saw this collection which seemed to be offering short stories to accompany the now finished series I literally almost broke my finger smushing it down on the "request" button. Naturally, since I already know the author's writing style I enjoyed this book. I don't know if that will be said of anybody who isn't already a fan but who buys this book because they see dragons in the illustrations. There are six short stories at the beginning of the book, five are very short, one is much longer and, honestly, that is what saved the whole reading experience for me. The first is a Temeraire story which will only make sense to fans who have read the series and understand why dragons voting is such a big deal. The final short story is Novik's take on the Meryton Ball sequence from Pride and Prejudice except - naturally - from a totally different angle. I absolutely loved that! Following the stories are 26 Drabbles. Quite honestly, I had no idea what a Drabble was. Novik explains that it is a story in 100 words and she followed that rule - 100 words only in each story. Not only was I underwhelmed, I was totally underwhelmed. It seemed to me that these drabbles were notes made on cocktail napkins, on the backs of grocery lists, jotted down on used envelopes.....whatever. They felt more like an exercise in how to organize thoughts for an idea which could be filled out later on. Pretty non-earthshattering stuff. This book seems to be available in print only - at least when it is first released. (ETA 8/31/17: I see now that the book has been released in digital format as well as print.) I'm sure the reason for that is so the artwork in the book can be shown to best advantage. I can see the art quite clearly on my Kindle, but lack all the color the print copy will have. I'm sure it will be stunning. So, if you have a collection of all the Temeraire stories you will definitely want to think about adding this new release to your collection. For me, "Dragons and Decorum" was a total delight and simply points out what a truly talented author Naomi Novik is.

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